

New Cub Scout Induction – Arrowhead Ceremony

Assistant Cubmaster: Many moons ago, a small boy sat outside his teepee watching the stars in the sky, and listening to the rustle of the trees in the night. Somewhere in the distance he could hear the call of the Bobcat, the Tiger, the Wolf, and the Bear. Close by was the sound of the ceremonial drum calling all braves of the tribe to the Council ring. The boy listened and wished he could answer that call.

Quick and as true as an arrow in flight, quiet as the hush of the night, to the beat of that ceremonial drum, before a great fire they gathered, awaiting Akela, their chief. Here in the great Council fire ring, on top of the mountain, they met. Here too, they sought the help of the Great Spirit as they hungered to “do their duty.” Here they met Chief Akela, and awaited his words.

Now with the last "boom" of the great drum, all was silent. The night was still. The great ceremonial fire was lit and it began to light up the night. As the fire grew and grew ever larger, the tom-tom started slowly and set the rhythm. Akela stepped into the ring as the tom-tom beat first low and slow and then like thunder. Akela danced and with his movement told of his life. He told of the strength of his father, the one they called the Arrow of Light. He told of how his father taught him the signs of the tribe; how to make a bow and let an arrow fly true to its target. Akela obediently followed the Arrow of Light and gained great knowledge. Akela learned that the arrow for which his father was named was one that pointed upward, truly to the Eagle so high above.

Akela's dance showed how he, as a young brave, was trusted to set out into the forest. There he met the Wolf who taught him the ways of the wild life, of the ground, of the tracks, and ways to find food. He next faced the Bear and learned the meaning of courage and the importance of being brave. And with this Akela stopped his dance!

Akela, the wise, had closed his dance and presented the sign of the tribe (*give the Cub Scout sign*) and all of the tribe did likewise. No one spoke until Akela said: "Our tribe can only be strong when the boys of the tribe are strong. The future is hidden, but if we are courageous and brave; if we teach our boys truth and knowledge, to aim high like the eagle, to be fair, our great tribe will continue to be strong.

Cubmaster: My friends, you were once like that small Indian boy wishing to answer the call of the great ceremonial drum and to be a member of the tribe. Tonight we have among us a boy who has answered the call of Cub Scouting and are pleased to welcome him and his family into our tribe, Pack 14.

Would the following boy and his parents please come forward, and would his new Den Leader also join us?

We welcome you and your son(s) to Pack 14. Much of the success of Cub Scouting depends upon the support of a boy's family. We encourage you to have fun with your son and to help him progress through the adventures of Cub Scouting by working with him regularly and by supporting his Den leader. As a sign of this commitment could all of the parents present tonight please stand and join my saying the Parent's Promise.

Parent's Induction Promise

I promise to do my best to help my son to be a good Scout,
To encourage him to fulfill the Cub Scout Promise,
And to obey the Law of the Pack.

I Promise to assist him in his Scout achievements
And also to cooperate with his Den Leader
And to participate in the Cub Scout Program.

Cubmaster: We will now have your Den Leader place your neckerchief around your neck so that all may know that you are a Wolf Scout. [*Den Leader does so and welcomes the new Scout.*]

[*Addressing the new Cub Scout*]

Cubmaster: In Scouting, we borrow not only stories from our Native American brethren, but also some of their symbols. In the story you heard just a few moments ago, the braves that were called to the council fire by the sounds of the beating drum gathered as quick and as true as an arrow in flight. The arrow has much meaning in Cub Scouting. It is incorporated in Cub Scouting highest award, the Arrow of Light, it used symbolically to point you in the right direction, and is even presented to each boy in our Pack who graduates into Boy Scouts as an "Arrow of Honor."

Have you ever shot an arrow? What makes the arrow fly straight? Answer: a straight shaft and feathers on the end. What helps it enter its target? Answer: a sharp point and speed. In order to be effective an arrow must have be all of these things, but the parts of the arrow itself hold special significance, too.

The three feathers symbolize the family, the Pack leadership, and the Scout. We have all promised to work together to help you grow into a fine young man. May you always fly straight and true to the mark.

The shaft of the arrow, fashioned from the hardest wood, stands for honesty and fairness. May you always be truthful, and straight as the arrow.

Finally, there is the arrowhead. It represents courage and strength, like the stone from which is crafted. May you always be courageous and strong.

(*Holding up arrowhead on a thong.*) Here is an arrowhead. Making arrowheads requires skill and practice, and a lot of patience, as they are chipped of stone. Your Cub Scout Leaders and parents will soon begin to "chip" away at you to make you a sharp young man. I present this arrowhead to you as a reminder to work hard and as a symbol to point you toward Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light. Congratulations!